42. (New) A polymer having the following structure:

$$(R_1 \sim R_2 \sim R_2$$

M.

wherein R1 is an element selected from the group consisting of O, N, B, and S, wherein R2 is an element selected from the group consisting of O and P, wherein said phosphorus is either in the +3 or +5 oxidation state, and wherein R3 is selected from the group consisting of aromatic and aliphatic groups.

M

43. (New) The polymer of claim 41, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight (M_n) ranging from about 400 to about 1,000,000.

Remarks

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (617) 854-4237 should he determine that a telephonic interview would expedite prosecution of this case.

The fee for a one month extension of time is enclosed and the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies to or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-2410, Order No. 30408-101.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen//Caudet, Ph.D. Attorney for Applicants

Reg. No. 48,921

Date: May 30, 2003